UNDERSTANDING NATURAL FARMING PRINCIPLES

WHY
WHAT
HOW

Awareness Generation Material on Natural Farming
Have you observed?

Climate is Changing

Environment is Degrading

Risk becoming Unbearable!

Everything has become Poisonous!

Costs increasing but pests & diseases are not controlled

Ill effects on humans (Cancer strains)

Reduced incomes and increased risks like a see-saw game!
Effects of Pesticides

It is a Poisonous Trap
Everything it harms us

Effects on Human Health

Headache
Vomiting
Dizziness

... Several such negative effects on humans (short term & long term)

Effects on Environment

Threatening Living System
Immunity booster for Pests?

Some become pesticide resistant ...
Chance for some more new Pests
LET US FILL LIFE ...

In our Soils, in our own Lives and our Environment
Key Principles of Natural Farming
Possible only with Farmers’ Collectives

1. Crops/organic soil cover – 365 days
2. Diverse cropping system with trees
3. Minimal disturbance of soil
4. Integration of animals
5. Bio inputs as necessary catalysts
6. Increase organic matter in the soil
7. Use locally adopted seeds
8. No Synthetic Fertilizers, Pesticides, Herbicides
9. Pest management through Botanical extracts
Components of Natural Farming

Seed treatment

Using Local seeds and treating the seeds with Beejamrith

Soil Nutrient Enhancement

Using Farm inputs like Jeevamrit Enhancing nutrient availability to plants

Soil Cover (Mulching)

Managing the soil cover for 365 days with live crop or crop residues

Soil Porosity

Ensuring both air and water molecules in soil cavities

Plant Protection

Through Integrated Natural Farming Practices - Diverse crops and Need based inputs
Our Soils are in ICU

Can we remain passive observers?

Weather conditions
Improper Yields
Unfavourable Market

How long we sustain them artificially?
How about your Soil...?

I've Black Soil

Water gets stagnated even for a small rain... crop gets damaged with inundation...

It's Red Soil

Water sinks so deep into the soil that even roots cannot reach... without sufficient moisture, crop growth is effected...

Mine is Saline...!!

With heavy salinity, there is no strength in soil... Whatever seed i sow, it does not germinate...

Whatever type of soil it may be...

It should have Water holding capacity and improved biological activity

It should contain...
Organic matter
Green cover

it should have...
Moisture retention capacity
Water holding capacity
What is good for Soil Health?..

Does using chemical fertilizer and pesticides improve soil health?

No, in fact they are degrading the soil properties and it’s health.

Why should we improve soil properties?

**Improved Physical, chemical properties**
- Facilitates soil aeration
- Enhances soil aggregation
- Improves water holding capacity

**Increase the soil organic carbon**
- Balances pH
- Cation exchange

**Improve the Biological activity**
- Encourages more ‘life’ in the soil
  (with increased number of earthworms, microbes etc)
- Improves soil biology
  (Due to Bio inputs, Soil cover/ Multi cropping)

“Natural Farming starts with Regenerating Life in the Soils”
Enhancing Soil Health Through Innovative Practices

Cultivating Biomass on Bunds for On-Farm Use

- Harvesting Biomass
- Preparing On Farm Organic Matter
- Application of Mulch/Biomass

Raising crops for In-situ application

Diverse Green Manuring Crops/Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing

Covering the Soil with Mulch

Relay Cropping
Measures to Improve Soil Health

Reducing Tillage

Managing Field Residues

Application of On-Farm Cow based Manures

Drava Jeevamrutham
Cover the Soil with Diverse Crops & Trees

- Healthy & Nutritious Food for Family
- 365 days
- 1/3rd feeds livestock
- 1/3 rd goes into soil
- Multiple Benefits
- Increased Net Income to Farmer

Farm Field is the best source for Organic Matter!
Diversified Crops need Diversified Seeds...

Why Struggle with Market Seed?

Use Local Seeds for Natural Resilience & Adaptability

Seed availability for intercrops

Opportunity for resowing during crop failure

Chance for raising fodder, grass & plantation

Suitable to local soils

Quality under farmer's control

Suitable to local climate

Withstand rainfall variations

Availability in time
Once Farmers used own Seeds...!
Why Can’t Now?

Ensuring Farmer/Community Control over Seeds

- Harvesting for seed
- Suitable Varieties
- Control over Production
- Multiple Varieties
- Saving for Future Needs
- Suitable for Local Conditions
- Timely Availability
- Sufficient Quantity
- Assured Quality
- Local Availability
- Seeds for Diverse Crops
Transition of Farmers from Conventional Practices to Natural Farming

3rd Year

2nd Year

Arranging Local seeds & analysing suitability

Crop yield analysis

1st Year

Arrangements for Cow urine/ Dung collection

Preparation of on field inputs

Confidence on all the NF practices - Seed to Seed (Jeevamrit, Mulching, Intercrops etc)

Farmers try a few/all NF practices in some patch of their agricultural lands

Farmers ready to try Natural Farming in Kitchen gardens for self-consumption

Krishi Sakhi training farmers

Field visit Prakritik Kheti Paathshala
Key Strengths to Natural Farming
Farmers’ Knowledge & Local Innovations

Field Demonstrations
Trainings
Knowledge sharing
Innovations

Farmer to Farmer

Women Groups & FPOs
Driving Forces for Natural Farming

Critical Infrastructure
Services & Market Linkages

Input support through Bio Resource Centres

Value addition & Processing
Prosperity with Ecological Security
Multiple Benefits with Natural Farming

Protection from Climate Risks

Rejuvenation of Farmlands

Less water for Crops

Healthy Soil
Healthy Food & Healthy planet

Reduction in cultivation costs

Fodder for our livestock

Enhanced production

More income with multiple crops

Healthy food for family